

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----126585 291648Z /46 R
R 291230Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8369

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 3556

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 144332

1. WE FOUND DEPARTMENT'S SUBJECT DRAFT PLAN FOR KUWAIT (REFTEL) TO BE COMPREHENSIVE, GENERALLY ACCURATE, AND WELL CONCEIVED. WE HAVE A FEW FACTUAL MODIFICATIONS, A SUGGESTION FOR SHORTENING THE FINAL SECTION WITHOUT CHANGING THE THRUST, AND SOME SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF US HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN KUWAIT.

2. THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS PARAGRAPH REFER TO THE UNNUMBERED/UNLETTERED FIRST PORTION OF THE PLAN.

A. WE BE BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURE OF 300 THOUSAND PALESTINIANS IS HIGH; THIS SHOULD READ "ABOUT 275 THOUSAND."

B. IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, CHANGE THE WORD "PROROGUED" TO DISSOLVED," SINCE THE FORMER COULD MEAN A SUSPENSION AFTER WHICH THE SAME LEGISLATORS COULD RESUME THEIR SEATS WITHOUT AN ELECTION; WE BELIEVE THIS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION-- THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION BEFORE THE NATIONAL
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ASSEMBLY IS REVIVED.

C. TWO SENTENCES LATER, DELETE THE WORDS "LOCAL PUBLICATIONS, PARTICULARLY, "SINCE IT IS THE ITEMS SUBMITTED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE CENSORED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION RATHER THAN THE PUBLICATIONS THEMSELVES.

D. IN THE PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "ANY EXAMINATION",

ADD THE FOLLOWING PHRASE AFTER THE WORD
"NATIONALITIES": QUOTE, A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH
IS NOT UNUSUAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AN AREA OF
TRADITIONALLY UNASSIMILATED MINORITIES. END QUOTE
E. IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH, CHANGE THE WORD
"SALARIES" TO "POSITIONS" AND ADD THE WORD
"PENSIONS" AFTER THE PHRASE "LAND OWNERSHIP," IN
THE LISTING OF BENEFITS OF KUWAITI CITIZENSHIP.

3. THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS PARAGRAPH REFER
TO THE SECTION LETTERED "A" (CONDITION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN KUWAIT):

- A. IN SUBPARAGRAPH 1.(D), CHANGE THE
WORD "PERSONS" TO "ALIENS."
- B. IN SUBPARAGRAPH 2.(A), ADD THE FOLLOWING
AFTER THE SECOND SENTENCE: QUOTE (THEY ARE NOT
SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.) UNQUOTE.
- C. IN SUBPARAGRAPH 2(C), CHANGE THE SECOND
SENTENCE TO READ: QUOTE. PRIOR TO THAT TIME,
KUWAIT HAD AN ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
ALL NATIVE-BORN KUWAIT MALES ENJOY THE
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE. UNQUOTE.
- D. IN SUBPARAGRAPH 3(B), CHANGE THE FIRST
LINE TO READ: QUOTE. KUWAIT'S OVER-TEN-BILLION-
DOLLAR ANNUAL INCOME UNQUOTE.
- E. IN SUBPARAGRAPH 4, (GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE
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TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS), CHANGE THE END OF THE FIRST
SENTENCE TO READ: QUOTE: ON THE GROUND THAT
KUWAIT IS VULNERABLE TO TERRORISM AND TO ANY
UNFRIENDLY INTENTIONS OF LARGER STATES UNQUOTE.

4. THE COMMENTS IN THIS PARAGRAPH REFER TO THE
FINAL SECTION OF THE PLAN (U.S. OBJECTIVES AND
COURSES OF ACTION), WHICH WE READ AS HAVING TEN
UNNUMBERED/UNLETTERED PARAGRAPHS. OF
THESE TEN PARAGRAPHS, WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE
FIRST, SECOND, FIFTH, SIXTH OR TENTH.

A. REGARDING THE THIRD AND FOURTH PARAGRAPHS,
WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE MERGED AND REWRITTEN
AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. QUOTE. KUWAIT RELIES ON FOREIGN
WORKERS FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN, IRAN, AND THE FAR EAST
AND FROM POORER ARAB COUNTRIES, FOR CONSTRUCTION,
MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND OTHER DIFFICULT WORK.
AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO BUILD ROADS, HOSPITALS,
SCHOOLS, AND THE LIKE HAVE BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF
LABORERS TO THE COUNTRY IN RECENT YEARS. MANY
OF THESE LABORERS ARE BROUGHT TO KUWAIT BY LABOR
CONTRACTORS WHO, OF COURSE, SELL THEIR SERVICES TO

KUWAITI CONTRACTORS FOR A PROFIT. THE ADEQUACY OF HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, FOOD, ETC., FOR THESE WORKERS VARIES GREATLY DEPENDING ON THEIR EMPLOYERS. IN SEVERAL CASES, AMERICAN FIRMS ARE MANAGING MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THESE CONDITIONS THROUGH CONTACT WITH THEM. THESE FORMS ARE APPARENTLY PROVIDING SUPERIOR CARE AND SERVICES FOR THE FOREIGN LABORERS WHOM THEY EMPLOY. UNQUOTE.

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B. ALSO, REGARDING THE SEVENTH AND EIGHT PARAGRAPHS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE MERGED AND REWRITTEN AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. FURTHERMORE, KUWAITIS, IN ANY DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL INVARIABLY PROVIDE A RECITATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWED BY A STRONG SUGGESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ISRAEL TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION. UNQUOTE.

C. FINALLY, WE SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE REPLACE ALL OF THE NINTH PARAGRAPH: QUOTE. IF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SHOULD OCCUR, FURTHER STUDY OF THE LAW IN KUWAIT, THE RELATIONSHIP OF ISLAMIC LAWS AND TRADITIONS TO CIVIL LAWS, ARREST AND TRIAL PROCEDURES, THE COURT AND PRISON SYSTEMS, SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. MORE INFORMATION ON THESE SUBJECTS WOULD INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF AREAS WHERE THE U.S. COULD THEN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. UNQUOTE.

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFYING SOME OF THE TEN PARAGRAPHS OF THE PLAN'S FINAL SECTION HAVE THREE AIMS. FIRST, REGARDING THE ATTENTION

WHICH THE EMBASSY SOULD PROPERLY DIRECT AT THE
CONDITION OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL EMPLOYED
IN KUWAIT, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR CURRENT MONITORING
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IS ADEQUATE TO MEET US INTERESTS IN HUMAN
RIGHTS. KUWAIT IS AFTER ALL A RELATIVE "PARADISE"
TO MOST SUCH WORKERS WHOSE LEVELS OF LIVING HERE
ARE HIGHER THAN AT HOME. ALSO, WE WOULD REQUIRE
ADDITIONAL STAFF IF WE WERE TO UNDERTAKE A
SERIOUS EFFORT TO COLLECT DATA ON LABOR
CONTRACTORS, SERVICES PROVIDED TO THIRD COUNTRY
LABORERS, AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE GOK TO
THESE LABORERS, THE CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER
BUSINESS AND POLITICAL INTERESTS WHICH ARE
INVOLVED IN THESE COMPLEX MATTERS. SECOND, OUR
RECOMMENDATIONS SHORTEN THIS SECTION WHILE
PRESERVING THE THRUST OF THE ESTIMATE OF KUWAIT
REACTIONS TO US CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
KUWAIT. THIRD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN KUWAIT WARRANTS THE INITIATION
NOW OF THE STUDY OF KUWAITI LAW WHICH THE
DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT PLAN ENVISIONS. RATHER, IF
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD OCCUR, WE WOULD
AGREE TO THE NEED FOR SUCH A STUDY AND WOULD DETERMINE AT THAT
TIME WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WOULD BE
NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK.
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